aircraft at Singapore in the first week of July 1991;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the reasons for keeping them inside specifying the time for which they had to stay inside;

(c) whether the aircraft was again got stuck at Madras Airport and if so, the time spent in Madras; and

(d) the total hours after which the passengers reached Madras and Bombay as compared to the time generally taken by aircraft flying from Singapore to Madras and Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Flight AI-415 of 7th July 1991 developed a snag in the hydraulic system while taxying for take off. 192 passengers were kept abroad for nearly six and a half hours due to the late hour as many of the facilities at the airport were closed at that time and it was hoped that the rectification of the snag would not take too much time.

(c) and (d) The snag in the hydraulic system reappeared while the aircraft was taxying for take off at Madras. The passengers were held up in Madras for 7 hours 50 minutes. The total delay was 23 hours 35 minutes between Singapore and Bombay and 15 hours 45 minutes between Singapore and Madras.

Purchase of Helicopters

1765. SHRI R. JEEVRATHINAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of helicopters purchased from November 1989 to May, 91:

(b) the name of the countries from where these helicopters have been purchased for the use of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(c) the total cost of these helicopters and

(d) where these helicopters are being put to use at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) None.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Solar Plant in Jodhpur, Rajasthan

1766. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a solar plant in Jodhpur, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has considered this proposal;

(c) if so, whether financial approval has been granted to implement the said proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which financial approval is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The proposal can be put up to the Planning Commission as a Scheme in the Eighth Plan after techno-economic clearance has been accorded by the Central Electricity Authority.

[*English*]

Absorption of Surplus Workers Engaged in Steam Locomotives

1767. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of workers engaged in steam locomotives are